RESTITUTION

TO THE

Royal Author

OR A

VINDICATION

OF

King *CHARLS* the Martyr's

most Excellent BOOK; Intituled

ΕΙΚΩΝ ΒΑΣΙΛΙΚΗ

From the False, Scandalous, and Malicious Reflections lately Published against it.

LICENSED,

May 10. 1691: *Z. Isham.*

C R

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RESTITUTION
TO THE
ROYAL AUTHOR:
OR A

Vindication of King *Charles* the Martyr's moſt Excellent Book Intituled, Εἰκὼν Βασιλικὴ from the Falſe, Scandalous, and Malicious Reflections lately Publiſhed againſt it.

MR. *Milton's* Εἰκονοκλάστης being lately reprinted, the Editor has thought fit, out of what deſign he beſt knows, to prefix the following *Advertiſement* to his Book,

ADVERTISEMENT.

Whereas a Book, called Eikon Baſilike, *or King* Charles *the* Firſt's Meditations, *is moſt commonly reported and believed by many, eſpecially the Clergy, to be compoſed by King* Charles *the* Firſt; *the following Inſertion of the Noble Lord* Angleſey, *under his own hand, was found by* Edward Millington, *prefixt to one of the Books, reputed to be King* Charles *the* Firſt's.

Which Memorandum, *if the* Declaration *of two Kings may be believed, is ſufficient to ſatisfie the World, how much that King was impoſed upon by Dr.* Gauden *Biſhop of* Exeter,

MEMORANDUM.

King Charles *the* Second *and the Duke of* York, *did* (*both in the laſt Seſſion of Parliament*, 1675. *when I ſhewed them in the Lords Houſe, the Written Copy of this Book, wherein are ſome Corrections and Alterations, written with the Late King* Charles *the* Firſt's *own Hand*,) *aſſure me that this was none of the ſaid Kings compiling, but made by Dr.* Gauden *Biſhop of* Exeter, *which I here inſert for the undeceiving of others in this Point, by atteſting ſo much under my Hand.*

Angleſey.

Now to prevent the ill Impreſſions, which may poſſibly be occaſion'd by the abovementioned *Memorandum*, and to reſtore this Incomparable Book to the juſt Priviledge of its Royal Author, I ſhall very briefly do theſe two things.

I. Shew ſome Marks of Suſpicion upon the *Advertiſement*.

II. Suppoſing it had all the pretended advantages, I ſhall produce ſuch proof againſt it, which, the Circumſtances of the Evidence conſidered, muſt be allowed an over Ballance to his Lordſhips Atteſtation.

I There are ſome things in the *Advertiſement* which render the Credit of it very queſtionable. For 1. It calls the Duke his then Royal Highneſs, *the Duke of York*, which was no Court Language in 1675; there being neither Reaſon nor Cuſtom for ſuch a length of Diſtinction at that time. Now its ſomewhat unlikely, that a Perſon of Honor and a Courtier, eſpecially one of my late Lord *Angleſey*'s Senſe, ſhould be guilty of ſuch an Impropriety. 2. We are inform'd by the *Advertiſement*, that in the *Written Coppy* of the Εικὼν Βασιλικὴ *There are ſome Corrections and Alterations written with the late King* Charles *the* firſt *his own Hand*; which is no contemptible Argument, if we had no other, that the King was the Author; otherwiſe we ſhall be at a loſs for the reaſon of his Majeſty's Correcting the Manuſcript, and ſuffering it to paſs under the Title of his own Compoſure. 3. The making Biſhop *Gauden* the Author of this Book is another diſadvantage to the credit of the *Memorandum*, for the Stile, the Air, and Thought of Εικὼν Βασιλικὴ, is as different from the management of Biſhop *Gauden's* writings, as 'tis poſſible to imagine; But out of reſpect to the Biſhop's Memory, I ſhall forbear to inſiſt upon the Compariſon. 'Its likely therefore King *Charles* the *Second* and the then Duke, might tell the late Earl of *Angleſey* (which his Lordſhip might poſſibly forget) that the Manuſcript was not King *Charles* the *Firſt* his Hand; but a Tranſcript of Dr. *Gauden's* writing, which as it agrees with matter of Fact; ſo it gives a fair account of the *Alterations* in the Copy, which the *Memorandum* grants were made by the King.

II. Suppoſing this *Memorandum* had all the pretended Advantages; I ſhall now produce ſuch proof againſt it, which the Circumſtances of the Evidence conſidered, muſt be allowed an over ballance to his Lordſhips Atteſtation.

1. We have the *Letters Patents* of King *Charles* the *Second*, dated *November* the 29*th*. 1660. In which *Richard Royſton* of *London*, Bookſeller, has the ſole priviledge given him of Printing all the *Works* of King *Charles* the *Firſt*, amongſt which the Εικὼν Βασιλικὴ is mentioned, with a particular Character and Commendation.

2. The ſame Priviledge for Reprinting the *Works* of King *Charles* the *Firſt*, is granted to the abovemention'd *Richard Royſton* by his Pr. Majeſty King *James* the *Second*, as appears by his Majeſties *Letters* dated *February* 22. 168⅛. Which grant refers expreſly to the firſt Edition Publiſh'd by *Richard Royſton*, in the year 1662, and in which his Majeſty declares that *all the Works of his Royal Father were Collected and Publiſhed.* Which former Impreſſion, as I have already obſerv'd, makes particular mention of Εικὼν Βασιλικὴ. Now I leave it to any unprejudiced Perſon to judge whether 'tis in the leaſt probable, that either of their Majeſties ſhould tell the late Earl of *Angleſey*, that this excellent Book was written by Dr. *Gauden*, ſince they have both own'd it to be their Royal Father's in ſo publick a manner, ſo that to uſe the expreſſion of the *Advertiſement*, *if the Declaration of two Kings*, made with all the Circumſtances of Advantage, *may be believ'd* before a blind Manuſcript, written by a doubtful Hand, and grounded upon a private Relation, then we have *ſufficient* evidence to *ſatisfie the World how much this Advertiſer has Endeavour'd to impoſe upon it.* To theſe Royal Teſtimonies,

ſtimonies, I ſhall ſubjoyn that of Sir. *Will. Dugdale*, who having mention'd the reſtleſs Endeavours of the Rebels to leſſen his Majeſties Reputation, as by other methods of Calumnies and Detraction, ſo particularly with reſpect to this Book, aſſigning it to ſome other, tho' uncertain, Author. Having remarked this ill uſage he delivers his opinion in theſe words.

'But to manifeſt that theſe were no borrowed Wares, 'but by the good and gracious aſſiſtance of Almighty God 'were totally of his own compoſure in the midſt of his 'moſt ſad afflictions, beſides the unlikely-hood that any 'ſuch expreſſions could flow from an heart not oppreſſed and griev'd with ſuch 'a weight of ſorrow as his was; I ſhall make it evident from the Teſtimony of 'very credible Perſons yet Living, that he had begun the penning of them 'long before he went from *Oxford* to the *Scots*: For the Manuſcript it ſelf writ-'ten with his own hand being found in his Cabinet, which was taken at '*Naueſby* Fight, was reſtor'd to him after he was brought to *Hampton Court*, 'by the Hand of Major *Huntington*, thro the favour of General *Fairfax*, of 'whom he obtain'd it. And that whilſt he was in the *Iſle* of *Wight*, it was 'there ſeen frequently by Mr. *Thomas Herbert*, who then waited on his Maje-'ſty in his Bed-chamber; as alſo by Mr. *William Levet*, (a Page of the back-'Stairs) the Title then perfix'd to it being *Suſpiria Regalia*, who not only 'read ſeveral parts thereof but ſaw the King divers times writing farther on it. 'Add hereunto the Teſtimony of Mr. *Richard Royſton* a Bookſeller, at the *An-'gel* in *Ivy-Lane*; who having in thoſe Rebellious times, adventur'd to Print 'divers of his Majeſty's Declarations, Speeches, and Meſſages; about the be-'ginning of *Oct.* 1648, (the King being then in the *Iſle of Wight*) was ſent to 'by his Majeſty to prepare all things ready for the printing ſome papers 'which he purpoſed ſhortly after to convey to him. Which was this very Copy 'brought to him on the Twenty Third of *December* next following, by one 'Mr. *Edward Symmons*, a Reverend Divine, who Receiv'd it from Dr. *Bryan 'Duppa*, then Biſhop of *Saliſbury*, and afterwards of *Wincheſter*. In the Print-'ing whereof Mr. *Royſton* made ſuch ſpeed, that it was finiſh'd before that 'diſmal Thirtieth of *January*, that his Majeſties Life was ſo taken away, 'as before is obſerv'd.

Sir. William Dugdale's *ſhort View of the late troubles in* England, *pr.* 1681. *p.* 380.

To make the proof more inconteſtible, if poſſible, I ſhall in the laſt place inſert a Letter, tranſcribed from the Original, written by Mr. *Levet* now Living; the Gentleman mentioned by Sir *William Dugdale* in the place above cited.

The Superſcription of the ſaid Letter runs thus,

For Seymer *Bourman*, *Eſq*; *near the Arch in* Lincolns-Inn Fields.

Dear Brother

Dear Brother,

YOurs of the 21*th.* of this inſtant *April* I received, and one Letter before that to the ſame effect, *Viz.* To give a true Account of my knowledg of that unparallel'd Book, which his Sacred Majeſty, of ever bleſſed memory, King *Charls* the Firſt (murdered by his own Rebellious Subjects before his own Pallace at *White-hall*, with all the violent and malitious circumſtances that wicked Men could invent) which Book, of my certain knowledge, I can depoſe, was truly His own, having obſerved His Majeſty oftentimes writing His Royal Reſentments of the bold and inſolent behaviour of His Souldiers (His Rebellious Subjects) when they had Him in their cuſtody. I waited on His Majeſty as Page of the Bed-chamber in ordinary during all the time of His Solitudes, (except when I was forced from Him) and eſpecially being nominated by His Majeſty to be one of His Servants, amongſt others, that ſhould attend Him during the Treaty at *Newport* in the Iſle of *Wight*, had the happineſs to read the ſame oftentimes in Manuſcript under His Majeſties own Hand, being pleaſed to leave it in the Window in His own Bed-chamber, where I was alwayes obliged to attend His Majeſties coming thither. But the Treaty being ended in few dayes after, the Souldiers with One to conduct them, by name Mr. *Anthony Mildmay* then Cup-bearer, came to the *Bed*-chamber, about ii. of the clock in the Night, and knocked at the door, and one *Mr. Herbert*, *Mr. Kirk*, and my ſelf having ſome hint of their intentions, were watching in an inward Room, and hearing the noiſe, went into His *Majeſties Bed*-chamber, and asked, who they were that durſt diſturb His *Majeſty* at that unſeaſonable time of the Night, who anſwered, they were ſent to tell the King, He muſt riſe and go with them. We acquainting His *Majeſty* with their deſign, He was pleaſed to command us to tell them, He would go with them, but it was not His uſual hour to riſe ſo ſoon, we again acquainted the Souldiers with His *Majeſties* anſwer. They inſtead of complying with his *Majeſty*, bid us tell Him, if He did not riſe preſently they muſt force Him to it: His *Majeſty* onely

ſaid

ſaid, if I muſt, give me my Cloaths, and ſo He immediately aroſe. (Here you may obſerve a mirrour of Patience in a diſtreſſed Prince) During the time of His Majeſties making himſelf ready, he concern'd himſelf only how to ſecure this *Book* of his, and a ſmall Cabinet, wherein he ſecured his Letters to his Queen, who was then beyond the Sea, and his *Majeſty* having procured a Paſs for me from the Governour that I ſhould wait on him there; He gave me in charge this ſaid *Book* and ſmall Cabinet, which I faithfully preſented to his *Majeſties* own hands that Night in *Hurſt-Caſtle*. But the Governour, by what information is too tedious to inſert here at this time, and therefore I omit it, did on the *Saturday* baniſh me out of the Caſtle.

I ſhould have ſent you a Relation which I had from *Royſton*, the Kings Printer, for the Printing the ſaid *Book* by his *Majeſties* eſpecial Command, brought to him by a Divine, but not to be * printed till after the Kings death, which he obſerved accordingly, for which *Cromwel* ſent for him to *White-hall*, not onely promiſing Rewards, but alſo threatning Puniſhment, if he would not deny, that he printed it by his *Majeſties* Order, which he refuſing to do did impriſon him for about a fortnight, but ſeeing he could not work upon him, releaſed him; which is all at preſent from

From Savernack *Park near* Marlborough, Apr. 29. 1691.

Your Affectionate Brother

To ſerve you

WILLIAM LEVETT.

* *By* Printed, *is to be underſtood,* Publiſhed.

Theſe *Authorities*, together with Remarks upon the *Memorandum* are, I conceive, ſufficient to clear the Point in hand, and to give the Reader full ſatisfaction. I ſhall juſt add a word concerning the *Prayer*, which *Milton* pretends the King took from Sir *Philip Sidney's Arcadia*, and ſo conclude.

I. We may take notice that the Prayer it ſelf is Grave, Pious, and unexceptionable.

II. This Prayer, as it is obſerv'd by the excellent *Author* of Εικων βασιλικη, p. 82, *Was neither made by an Heathen Woman, nor to an Heathen God* (*as the*

Objection ſuppoſes) *but compoſed, as is believed by the Author a Chriſtian, without Reference to any Heathen Deity.*

III. This *Prayer* was not printed with Εἰκὼν Βασιλικὴ in two or three of the Firſt Impreſſions of that Book, which is an *Argument* it was not uſed by the King; but afterward inſerted by the Printers for their private advantage. This Inference, beſides the reaſonableneſs of it, is the Opinion of the Learned Perſon aboyementioned.

FINIS.

ADVERTISEMENT.

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All Five Printed *for* Sam. Keble, *and are to be Sold at the* Great Turks-Head *in* Fleetſtreet *over againſt* Fetter-Lane end. 1691.